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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/458,820	12/13/1999	WUPING DONG	FUJI-111	9320

23995 7590 05/08/2002

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EXAMINER

CHANCE, JANET D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3626

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/458,820

Applicant(s)

DONG, WUPING

Examiner

Janet D. Chance

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 December 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 February 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This communication is in response to the application filed 13 December 1999. Claims 1-2 are pending.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because there is a description of a Figure 5 in the specification yet there is no drawing labeled Figure 5. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because its length exceeds the maximum of 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt (U.S. Patent 5,781,892).

(A) As per claim 1, Hunt discloses a booking and issuing method including a reservation system for accepting booking requests via a communication line (Hunt: computer reservation system, "CRS", in Figure 1), a local computer connected to the reservation system via the communication line (Hunt: server (14) and gateway (22), Figure 1 and col. 3 lines 36-38), and a personal computer connected to the local computer via a network. (Hunt: client (12), Figures 1 & 2; col.4 lines 16-28) comprising the steps of:

(a) addressing a ticket booking commencement request from the personal computer to the local computer (Hunt: Figure 1; col. 2 lines 16-20);

(b) sending reservation system information from the local computer to the personal computer via the network responding to the ticket booking commencement request (Hunt: Figure 1; col. 4 line 67 to col. 5 line 2; and col. 7 lines 29-32);

(c) storing the information that was sent from the local computer into the personal computer memory for display (Hunt: Figure 2 and col. 4 lines 28-29);

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(d) transmitting and receiving information including a booking number over the Internet between the personal computer and the selected reservation system (Hunt: Figures 1 and 2, and col. 6 lines 34-35);

(e) generating, in the personal computer, booking data by compiling predetermined data within the information received into a predetermined form and sending data to the local computer (Hunt: col. 4 lines 6-9 and col. 5 lines 3-5);

(f) transmitting, in the local computer, data including the booking number to the selected reservation system via the communication line for issuing the tickets booked (Hunt: col. 6 lines 9-10 and 35-36);

Hunt does disclose connection to more than one computer reservation system (Hunt: Figure 1 and col. 3 lines 33-35) but does not expressly disclose the selection of one of the computer reservation systems. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select which reservation system or systems to connect to and to identify those selected by a unique address with the motivation of honoring an agreement between a travel agency and a particular airline, and of accommodating user preferences in accumulating frequent flier miles for a particular airline.

Hunt discloses a network and the means to connect to the network (Hunt: client (12), Figures 1 & 2; col. 4 lines 16-28) but fails to disclose the Internet as the network of choice. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the Internet as the network with the motivation for utilizing a readily available and easily accessible communication tool.

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(B) The limitations in claim 2 differ from those in claim 1 in that, claim 1 contains a method recited as a series of function steps whereas claim 2 contains features recited in a “means-plus-function” format. As the method of claim 1 has been shown to be anticipated by the prior art, Hunt, it is readily apparent that the “means” to accomplish those method steps is obvious in view of the listed citations of the prior art of Hunt. As such, the limitations recited in claim 2 are rejected for the same reasons given above for the function claim 1 and incorporated herein.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited but not applied prior art teaches: a system for corporate travel planning and management including graphical user interfaces to select an airline and to enter booking information (European Patent EP 0 762 306 A2); an internet based airline booking system (U.S. Patent 6,304,850); A graphical user interface for a travel planning system (U.S. Patent 6,307,572); A computer travel planning system (U.S. Patent 5,237,499); An automated system for air travel arrangements that replaces many travel agent functions (U.S. Patent 6,119,094); A method and apparatus for interacting with a computer reservation system (U.S. Patent 5,842,176); E-commerce for airline tickets (Hobica, “Airline Bookings by the Internet Are Taking Off”, Bergen Evening Record, 08 September 1996); Corporations using the internet for airline ticket booking (Anonymous, “Corporate Decision-makers Divided Over Online Purchases”, San Diego Business Journal, 09 June 1997); Comparing consumer and corporate travel booking needs and how the internet solves both (Steiner, “Automated Booking System – A revolution on Business Travel”, Westchester County Business Journal, 22 September 1997); and

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A software package for a group of travel agents to use the internet to access the reservation systems of major airlines (Anonymous, "Web Ventures Announces Version 4 of 'BookIt! PRO' – Gives Full Travel Agent Access to Airline Computer Reservation System Over the Internet", PR Newswire, 5 October 1998).

6. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703)746-7239 [Official communications]

(703)746-7238 [After Final communications, labeled "Box AF"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 2, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, 4th floor receptionist.


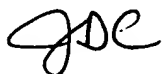
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janet D. Chance whose telephone number is (703) 305-5356.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on (703) 305-9588. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

jdc
May 6, 2002



JOSEPH THOMAS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 9408 3600